

8 MAY 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs
Presidential Briefing Coordinator
Chief, Special Projects Branch/Strategic Evaluation
Center, Office of Strategic Research

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Soviet Civil Defense

1. When I let the President know that we have published our unclassified civil defense study (hopefully soon), I think I'll make the point to him that it tries to bring out to the public that successful reduction of fatalities by civil defense procedures in the Soviet Union is highly dependent upon the evacuation of the major cities. It seems to me it might then be worthwhile to have a little discussion of the pros and cons of evacuation.

2. I frankly had assumed that the Soviet citizenry would be more vulnerable during the period of evacuation even than when in the cities, assuming that we retarget it. The recent briefing [redacted] categorically stated that that was not the case. On the surface this seemed quite logical--i.e., the more densely packed the people are the more vulnerable they are. On the other hand, when a lot of people are in buildings and sheltered thereby from initial heat, radiation and perhaps blast as opposed to being virtually exposed on the roads in the countryside, I'm not so sure I understand that thoroughly. In short, I'd like to discuss what we know about the potential evacuation and the problems of evacuation.

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STANSFIELD TURNER